

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 18, 2015

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 18, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon and Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the May 4th meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

EXTENSION

Kristi Amos presented a contract for summer help. This position had been a part time hourly position. Mark Bacon moved to approve the contract. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker presented an application for a grant from the Rush County Community Foundation to replace radios. Kemker has also applied for a grant from Rush/Shelby Energy for a total of \$9,500. Mark Bacon moved to approve the application. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Estimates were presented for the maintenance of the generators at the Courthouse and Jail. Davis Trucking submitted a quote of \$960 per year. W.W. Williams quote was \$1,311.12 per year with a three year contract. Paul Wilkinson move to approve maintenance for one year with Davis Trucking. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey presented the April Treasurer's Report. Humphrey reported that Spring tax collections increased \$525,483.11 over the same period in 2014. An increase in credit card use was noted and a savings of \$1,000 was realized by changing printing vendors.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ashley Stevens Director reported that the grant for funding of Community Corrections for 2015-2016 was approved in the amount of \$158,754. A total of \$196,119 has been collected in the user fee fund.

MAYOR PAVEY

Mayor Mike Pavey asked the Commissioners to join the City of Rushville in signing a joint resolution to participate in a grant request to SET (Stronger Economic Ties). Attorney Leigh Morning was asked to prepare the resolution. The Mayor reported that the Flat rock Levee records are in many locations throughout the county. The formation of a committee will be established to oversee the data to be located in the EMA office.

Pavey shared that the Extension Office has a publication which features the Riverside Amphitheater.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton requested signatures of the Commissioners to record the storage tank that will be removed for the jail project. Mark Bacon moved to sign the application. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported the inmate count at 38 with 5 being DOC. There is currently 499 outstanding arrest warrants and dispatch answered 368 calls last week. The deputies logged 6,872 miles responding to 2 property damage accidents and 1 personal injury calls.

The Dodge Charger that was recently purchased will not run. The sheriff stated that the vehicle has been towed to two different dealerships but has yet to be repaired.

QPH

Quality Plumbing and Heating has inspected the drainage of water on the south side of the courthouse and will be sending quotes for new sump pumps.

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JAIL STUDY COMMITTEE

The jail study committee represented by County Council members Charles Smith and Marvin Hedrick presented the recommendation for the location of a new jail. It was reported that several public meetings had been held throughout the county. Concerns the committee had addressed was close proximity to the courthouse for safety and transportation cost, the cost of the property needed for the footprint and the capability of future expansion.

Commissioner Levi has a concern that the present location is land locked. Sheriff Cowan shared that under a new law, Level 6 felons must be housed at the local jail and that this will increase the jail population.

Recommendations submitted by the jail committee include construction of a new jail at the current site to be located south of the existing jail. Along with the recently acquired Rush/Shelby building; the purchase of the building west of the proposed jail site owned by Michael P. Pavey is needed to expand the construction perimeter. An agreement with Duke Energy to relocate the current utility lines and the removal of the underground storage tank located behind the jail would need to be addressed.

Commissioner Levi thanked the committee for their service on this project and stated that a new jail will take time and consideration and will not be built in a year or two,

Commissioner Wilkinson made a motion to construct the new jail at 1st and Water St. on county property adjacent to the current jail. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson made a request to amend the motion to include the recommendations as provided by the jail study committee. Mark Bacon seconded the amended motion. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon initiated a motion to contact Duke Energy for firm pricing within the parameters of the estimated cost to relocate the power lines located south of the jail. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WIND FARMS

Commissioner Paul Wilkinson wanted to recognize those property owners that have contacted him in opposition of the proposed wind farms. Those people stated that the windmills would be too large, too close, and they cause a threat to the farming community. Comments and questions were received from Gordon Hall and David Hiner who were present to convey their opposition to the wind farms.

Attorney Leigh Morning was asked to give an update on the two wind farm proposals. Morning reported that Apex, project name Flatrock Wind is a two county project with 65 windmills.

APEX is near completion of the Economic and the Decommissioning agreements but they want to conduct a road study before the Road agreement can be completed. The County Council will need to conduct a public hearing and to consider an abatement if requested by the company. The BZA has continued the request for a special exception and the APC will need to consider a location permit.

NextEra, project name Whitewater Wind has received Commissioner approval for the Economic Development, Decommissioning, and the Road agreement. This agreement contained a 1,400 foot setback. The Council conducted a public hearing and has granted a tax abatement. There are 90 to 100 windmills in the Whitewater Wind project and it includes three counties.

AUDITOR

- The annual Congressional School Report was signed on a motion by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Mark Bacon.
- Surety bonds were signed for Missy Fizer and Trish Muir. Mark Bacon made the motion and Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.
- EMS reports were received from Carthage, Raleigh, and Rush Memorial Hospital.
- A certified letter was received from Stephen Pavey who is requesting a variance and special exception to place an ATM at 110 E. Water Street.

Mark Bacon moved to approve claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Payroll claims were approved. Mark Bacon made the motion. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Mark Bacon seconded the motion.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor